



**URBAN DISTRICT OF
MELTHAM**



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1963

BY

ERIC WARD

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

MELTHAM URBAN DISTRICT

LIST OF COUNCILLORS

FOR THE YEAR 1963/64

Chairman:

* R. C. ASHTON, Esq., J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

* H. FISHER, Esq.

H. Bastow, Esq.

* H.B. Dearnley, Esq.

*W. Battye, Esq.

H. Halstead, Esq.

*F. Beachill, Esq.

* Mrs. J.R. Kirby, J.P.

*F. E. Dawson, Esq.

** J. Steel, Esq.

*J. Dean, Esq.

* E.Taylor, Esq.

** Chairman of the Public
Health Committee

* Member of the Public
Health Committee

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health

ERIC WARD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

J.M. DESMOND, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. -
(appointed 4.3.63. - resigned 22.9.63.)

Public Health Inspector

N. SYKES, M.A.P.H.I.

Divisional Health Office,
Woodville,
Scar Lane
GOLCAR,
Huddersfield.

September, 1964.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my seventeenth Annual Report on the health of the Meltham Urban District and the work of the Public Health Department during 1963. The Report is drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health.

I am again indebted to your Public Health Inspector, Mr. N. Sykes, for the compilation of the section of the Report which deals with Sanitary Circumstances, Housing and the Inspection and Supervision of Food. These sections form his Annual Report for the year.

According to the Registrar General, the population of the district by mid 1963 was 5,550, or 40 more than at mid 1962. The live births attributed to the district numbered 92 or 15 less than in the previous year, whilst the deaths were 66 or 5 less than in 1962; thus the natural increase of population caused by the excess of births over deaths was 26.

The Council's programme formulated in 1955 for dealing with 266 unfit houses by 1980 is well up to schedule.

As in previous years particulars are given in Part VII of the report of the services provided by the West Riding County Council as the Local Health and Education Authority.

Once again, I wish to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the Council for your continued interest and encouragement, and to express my appreciation for the assistance and co-operation received from your Clerk and other officers of the Council. In particular, my thanks are due to your Public Health Inspector, Mr. N. Sykes, for his invaluable help and loyal service throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

ERIC WARD,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I
STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The Urban District is situated on high ground about five miles to the south-west of Huddersfield, the principal centre of population being the township of Meltham, whilst the other hamlets in the District are Meltham Mills, Helme and Wilshaw.

High moorland rising to a height of over 1,500 feet forms the western and southern parts of the District. The principal industries now carried out in the area are engineering, including tractor building, woollen textiles, silk dressing, brick and tile making and mixed farming.

General Statistics

Area in acres	5,906
Enumerated Population (Census, 1931)	5,051
Enumerated Population (Census, 1951)	5,107
Enumerated Population (Census, 1961)	5,413
Registrar-General's Estimate of Population (middle of 1962)	5,510
Registrar-General's Estimate of Population (middle of 1963)	5,550
Area Comparability Factors:	Births 1.15; Deaths 1.09
Number of inhabited Houses at end of 1963	2,060
Rateable Value (31st March, 1964)	£143,806
Sum presented by a Penny Rate (March, 1964)	£570

Vital Statistics

Population

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population at mid-1963 was 5,550 as compared with 5,510 at mid-1962. As there was a natural increase in population, that is an excess of births over deaths, of 26, this means that there has been an influx of some 14 people into the area.

Live Births

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	42	45	87
Illegitimate	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>
Total	<u>46</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>92</u>

Crude birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population:- 16.58

Adjusted birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population:- 19.07

Still-Births

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	-	2	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	-	2	2

Rate per 1,000 of total live and still births: 21.28

Infant Mortality - Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	2	1	3

Death Rates of Infants under 1 year of age

All infants per 1,000 live births: 32.61

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate births: 34.48

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate births: NIL

Deaths

<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
26	38	66

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population: 11.89

Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population: 12.96

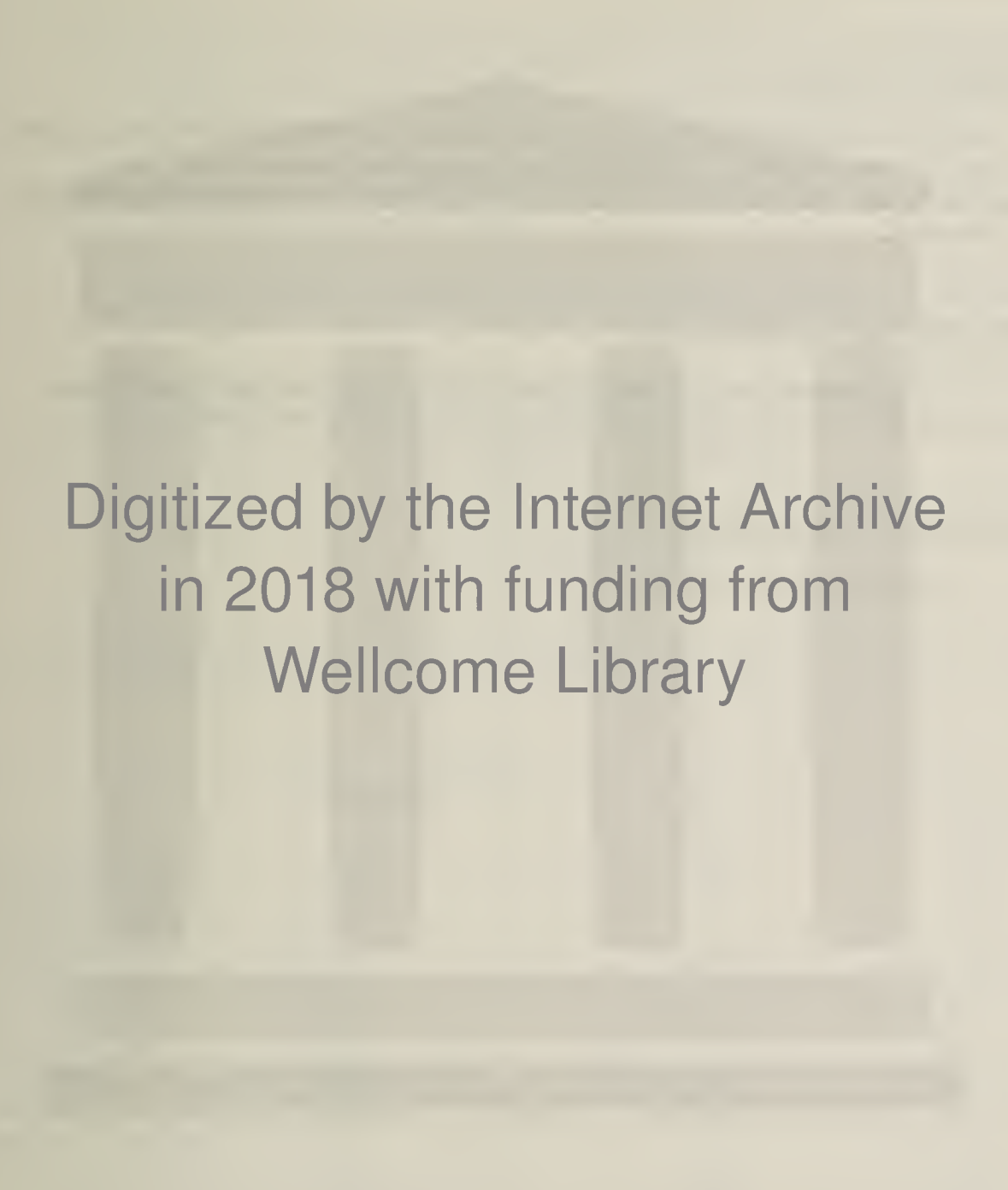
The chief causes of death were:-

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1960</u>
(i) Diseases of the heart and circulatory system	26	29	32	27
(ii) Malignant Neoplasms	11	12	11	8
(iii) Diseases of the respiratory system	10	7	7	5
(iv) Intra-cranial Vascular lesions	8	6	11	8

In 1963 these four causes accounted for 80.88% of the total deaths 44 or 64.71% occurred in persons 65 years or over and 23 or 33.82% in persons 75 years or over.

A table showing the causes of death, ages and sex distribution is set out on page 5.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total Ages	-1	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 +
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
15. Leukaemia, A leukaemia	M	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	2
16. Diabetes	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of Nervous System	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
20. Other Heart Disease	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	3
21. Other Circulatory Disease	F	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	4
23. Pneumonia	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	1
24. Bronchitis	F	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	6
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
32. Other Defined and Ill defined diseases	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35. Suicide	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES		23	2	1	-	1	2	1	1	7	13	19
	Male	13	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	7	13	19
	Female	10	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	5



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SECTION II
GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Staff

There is no change in the arrangements as detailed in previous reports.

Laboratory Facilities

These are available at the Wakefield Laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service.

Ambulance Service

For accident and general cases this is provided by the West Riding County Council. Infectious cases are removed by the ambulance of the Infectious Diseases Hospital to which the patient is removed.

Home Nursing and Midwifery

A full-time Home Nurse/Midwife and a part-time Home Nurse employed by the County Council are resident in Meltham.

Treatment Centres and Clinics

These remain unchanged.

SECTION III

Mr. N. Sykes, Public Health Inspector, reports:-

WATER SUPPLY

The water for the district is supplied by the Huddersfield Corporation under the Huddersfield Water Order of 1961. Most of the water is collected in the Urban District and additional supplies are available from other sources when required.

I am indebted to W.M. Jollans Esq., M.A., M.I.C.E., M.I.W.E., Waterworks Engineer and Manager, Huddersfield Corporation, for the following information:-

- (a) (i) The water is filtered and chlorinated prior to distribution and a small quantity of lime is added to the filtrate to raise the pH of the water to between 8.0 and 9.0. This treatment has been well maintained throughout the year.
- (ii) The average consumption of the water during the year was 190,000 gallons per day.
- (b) Samples are taken weekly from consumers' taps in the Meltham area of supply and are submitted to bacteriological examination.

Total number of bacteriological samples	37
Total number of raw water bacteriological samples	1
Total number of treated water bacteriological samples.	36

Percentage of negative bacteriological samples of treated water	100%
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Chemical examination of tested water is carried out every quarter and the following are the results obtained in 1963.

	1963		
	<u>January</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>July</u>
Free Chlorine	0.15	0.30	0.1
Reaction pH	8.0	9.2	9.0
Chlorine as Chloride	14.0	15.0	17.0
Nitrogen as Nitrate	Nil	Nil	Nil
Free Saline Ammonia	0.12	0.15	0.05
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.08	0.12	0.05
Oxygen Absorbed in 4 hrs @ 37°C	0.55	0.33	0.49
Permanent Hardness	30	27	27.5
Temporary Hardness	14	17	12.5
Total Hardness	44	54	40
Lead	Nil	Nil	Nil

(c) Since the water was maintained above pH 8.0 plumbo solvency is negligible.

(d) No contamination of treated water occurred in 1963.

(e) Number of dwelling houses and number of population supplied:-

(i) Direct:	Houses	2,004
	Population	5,380

(ii) By means of standpipes - Nil.

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There has been little change in the position since last year when it was stated that there was every prospect of 30 additional dwellings being provided with sewerage facilities in the near future. This extension, in the Red Lane area, has not yet been carried out but preparatory work is proceeding. It is also to be expected, due to private development, further extensions to the sewers will be commenced very shortly.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

During the year 4 pail closets and 1 privy were converted to water closets and some adjustment was made to the number of privy middens due to conversion to chemical closets. The total number of pail closets is now 36, privies 20 and chemical closets 13. These numbers can and will be reduced still further, but at least they do not cause undue difficulties in the refuse collection service.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

In April 1963, a new contract was entered into for the collection of refuse with the same person who has, for the past 15 years, undertaken to collect refuse throughout the district. The contract is for a period of 10 years and ensures a weekly collection of refuse from all but a few outlying properties.

It is with regret that I have to record the death of Mr. J. Strickland, the contractor, who, as stated above, had given a satisfactory service for 15 years, only one month after the new contract had commenced. The contract was transferred to his wife, who along with her son, is fulfilling the terms of the contract with satisfaction.

There are critics of the contracting system of refuse collection, but from my experience I believe it offers a much more flexible and satisfactory solution to the problem of providing a satisfactory service, especially to the smaller authority.

The gross cost of the refuse collection and disposal service was £7,447. Salvage produced an income of £280.

FILTHY, VERMINOUS OR UNWHOLESOME PREMISES

Only one problem has arisen during the year under the above heading; the house is Council owned and the ultimate remedy would be eviction, but it is hoped that the problem will be solved in a more satisfactory manner.

One other house was treated with insecticide after the removal of the occupant, this being a precautionary measure and no vermin was found.

SHOPS ACTS

Conditions in general were satisfactory and no action has been found necessary.

CLEAN AIR

During March of this year, the Council considered a report on the implications, financial and otherwise of the establishment of smoke control areas within the district. Any action on the report was deferred for a year in order to allow the completion of the conversion from hand fired coal to automatic oil firing at the local brickworks. As things have developed, it will necessitate a re-appraisal and further report in the light of the smokeless fuel position in this area and the changes in legislation.

Seventy-five observations were made of industrial chimneys and 17 interviews were conducted in connection with the observations and other matters.

There have been two major installations of oil fired equipment, both being additional to existing coal fired boilers, and, in each case, it would appear that the ultimate aim is to replace the coal firing with oil firing.

Daily observations and readings have been carried out with the volumetric apparatus and the results compare favourably with the surrounding districts.

RODENT CONTROL

There have been no major problems with regard to rats or mice. The general activity appears to fall into a pattern which is repeated each year. The work is well within the capacity of the part-time rodent operator, but I am of the opinion that the work in connection with sewer treatments could well be put into the hands of a contractor.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions to health:-

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	32	13	NIL	NIL
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	3	4	NIL	NIL
TOTAL	35	17	NIL	NIL

2. Cases in which defects were found.

NIL

PART VIII OF THE ACT

There are no outworkers engaged in the district.

SCHOOLS - SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

There have been no new developments during the year, Wilshaw School being the only one having to contend with externally situated water closets. Meltham Mills School has been put to temporary use while rehabilitation of Netherthong School is carried out with the consequent use of external water closets.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Meat Inspection	69
Food Hygiene	36
Factories Acts	17

Public Health Acts

Complaints	57
Revisits	144
Infectious Diseases	5
Unwholesome Premises	10
Conversions	29

Housing Acts

Inspections	35
Revisits	107
Tenancy Applications	40
Rats and Mice	48
Milk and Dairies Regulations	12
Ice Cream Premises	15

Clean Air Act

Observations	75
Interviews	17
Refuse Disposal	393
Petroleum Acts and Regulations	22
Miscellaneous	54

SECTION IV

HOUSING

No new houses were completed by the Council during the year, but preparatory work for the erection of flats, bungalows and two storey houses has been going on during this time. A certain amount of progress has been made in slum clearance, mainly because of the number of re-lets that became available. The object has been to take appropriate action with every dwelling included in the schedule as soon as it has become vacant. In addition to any formal action taken, six houses have been purchased, along with the land, demolished and the land is now available for part of the development mentioned above. Private building has continued at a steady rate and it is expected to increase in the near future due to the number of new sites being developed. Good progress was made in the improvement of older houses. Action was taken on the advice given in Circular 42/62 and, as a result, one owner of fifteen houses decided forthwith to instal modern amenities with the aid of standard grants. In addition, the Council, after protracted negotiations, are purchasing a further six houses for improvement.

(1)	Number of Dwelling houses in district	....	2,060
(2)	Number of Houses included in above:-		
	(a) Back-to-Back	....	44
	(b) Single Back	....	Not known
(3)	<u>Slum Clearance</u>		
	Estimated number of unfit houses at 31.12.63 in respect of which no representation has yet been made	....	41
(4)	<u>Houses in Clearance Areas and Unfit Houses Elsewhere</u>		
	No. of Houses included in Representations made during the year:-		
	(a) In Clearance Areas	....	NIL
	(b) Individual Unfit-Houses	....	4
A.1	<u>Houses Demolished:</u>		
	In Clearance Areas as Unfit for human habitation	....	NIL
	Not in Clearance Areas as a result of formal or informal action under Sections 16 or 17(1) Housing Act 1957	....	3
A.2	Number of Dwellings included above which were previously reported as closed	....	3
B.	<u>Unfit Houses Closed</u>		
	Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act 1957, and Section 26, Housing Act 1961	....	2
	Families displaced during the year	....	1
	Persons displaced during the year	....	4
	Parts of Buildings Closed under Section 18, Housing Act 1957.		
	Number of Houses	....	2
	Number of Persons Displaced	....	3
	Number of Families Displaced	....	1
C.	<u>Unfit Houses made fit and houses in which Defects were remedied</u>		
	(1) After informal action by the local authority:-		
	(a) By owner	....	16
	(b) By local authority	....	NIL
	(2) After formal notice under Public Health Acts		
	(a) By owner	....	NIL
	(b) By local authority	....	NIL

- D. Unfit Houses in temporary use (Housing Act 1957) NIL
- E. Number of houses purchased NIL
- (5) Number of families re-housed during the year into Council owned dwellings from Clearance Areas etc. 2
- (6) Rent Act 1957:-
- (a) No. of certificates of disrepair granted NIL
- (b) No. of undertakings to execute repairs given by owners to the local authority NIL
- (c) No. of certificates of disrepair cancelled NIL
- (7) Overcrowding:-
- No problems appear to exist.
- (8) New Dwellings:-
- No. of new dwellings completed during the year:-
- By the Local Authority NIL
- By Private Enterprise 24
- (9) Grants for Conversions or Improvement of Housing Accommodation

	Formal Applications received during the year	Applications approved during the year	Number of dwellings completed during the year
	Number of dwellings	Number of dwellings	
(a) CONVERSIONS (The number of dwellings is the number resulting from completion of the work)	NIL	NIL	NIL
(b) IMPROVEMENTS	30	30	15

10. Details of Advances for the Purpose of Acquiring or Constructing Houses

Seven advances were made during the year for the purpose of acquiring houses, the total sum involved being £4,820.

SECTION V

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

MILK SUPPLY

All the producer retailers were sampled once during the year and the samples submitted for the methylene blue test, tuberculosis and brucella Abortus. All satisfied the methylene blue test, none produced a positive result for tuberculosis and one showed the presence of brucella abortus. Individual cow samples isolated two animals secreting the organism and a notice under Article 20, Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959 was served on the producer in respect of the two animals.

ICE CREAM

Eleven samples of ice cream were submitted for examination and all were satisfactory in Grade I.

MEAT INSPECTION

Two slaughterhouses were licenced but only one was in use during the year. The total number of animals slaughtered was 506 as compared with 1,108 in 1962.

It is to be noted from the details outlined below that no indication of tuberculosis was found in any animal.

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. killed.. . . .	82	75	1	266	82	Nil
No. inspected.. . . .	82	75	1	266	82	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci. Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Whole carcasses condemned						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	8	Nil	4	2	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.. . . .	4.8	10.6	Nil	1.5	2.4	Nil
Tuberculosis only.. . . .						
Whole carcasses condemned Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cysticercosis.. . . .						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned Nil,	Nil,	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

As the Food and Drugs Authority for the area, the West Riding County Council undertake the sampling duties aimed at preventing the adulteration of food.

This work is carried out by the staff of the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, who reports that during the year 11 samples of milk were taken, all of which were found to be genuine.

SECTION VI. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF DISEASES

Measles

A total of 64 cases of measles were notified during the year, 47 in January, 5 in February and 12 in June. Of these, 4 were under one year of age, 31 were aged 1 - 5 years and 29 were aged 5 - 15 years.

Tuberculosis

No new cases were entered on the Register during the year, but 2 Pulmonary and 1 Non-Pulmonary were removed. The number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year were:-

Pulmonary	Male	8	Female	5
Non-Pulmonary	Male	1	Female	2

